

Message Text

SECRET

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TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: DRAFTING GROUP MEETING, NO. 73, MARCH 12, 1976
(SALT TWO-934)

1. ARTICLE IV.4 (SILO VOLUME). THE SIDES AGREED ON TEXTS AS FOLLOWS: PARAGRAPH TEXT IS ESSENTIALLY SOVIET PROPOSAL; AGREED STATEMENT GIVING MEANING OF ORIGINAL REFERS TO INTERNAL DIMENSIONS, INCLUDING INTERNAL VOLUME; AND COMMON UNDERSTANDING DESIGNED TO LIMIT MAXIMUM SILO DIMENSION INCREASES USES BASIC SOVIET PROPOSAL BUT WITH ADDITION AT END OF "SOLELY THROUGH AN INCREASE IN ONE OF THESE DIMENSIONS." IT WAS AGREED TO REFER TEXTS TO CHIEFS OF DELEGATION. BOTH SIDES CONFIRMED THAT DEPTH/GLUBINA MEANS THE DISTANCE FROM ONE END OF THE SILO LAUNCHER TO THE OTHER END. SOVIETS STATED THAT USE OF "INTERNAL DEPTH" WOULD BE IN FULL CONFORMITY WITH "GLUBINA", BUT BOTH SIDES AGREED TO LEAVE THIS PROBLEM UNTIL TEXTS ARE CONFORMED. US STATED THAT IT WAS US UNDERSTANDING THAT ORIGINAL INTERNAL DEPTH OF AN ICBM SILO LAUNCHER MAY NOT BE INCREASED MORE THAN 32 PERCENT AND ORIGINAL INTERNAL DIAMETER MAY NOT BE INCREASED MORE THAN 15 PERCENT. US ALSO STATED THAT NOTHING IN PARAGRAPH 4, THE AGREED STATEMENT OR THE COMMON UNDERSTANDING AFFECTS THE RIGHT OF THE PARTIES TO

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DECREASE SILO LAUNCHER DIMENSIONS. SOVIETS RESPONDED THAT IN

FORMULATING TEXTS THEY BELIEVED SIDES PROCEEDED FROM SAME PRINCIPLES.

2. ARTICLE II.7/6 (HEAVY MISSILE DEFINITION). SOVIETS TABLED A REVISED HEAVY MISSILE DEFINITION. US POINTED OUT THAT US PROPOSAL TOOK INTO ACCOUNT SITUATION WHERE ONE MISSILE HAD HEAVIEST THROW-WEIGHT WHILE ANOTHER MISSILE HAD HEAVIEST LAUNCHING WEIGHT. SOVIETS ARGUED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO DEAL WITH THEORETICAL POSSIBILITIES, AND IN PRIVATE SAID THAT BOTH SIDES KNOW THAT THE SS-19 IS THE STANDARD (AT THE SAME TIME ACKNOWLEDGING THAT A DOUBLE MISSILE STANDARD MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR THE HEAVY ICBM CAP). US IN TURN EXPLAINED THAT WHATEVER PRESENT SITUATION IT COULD CHANGE BY DATE OF SIGNATURE.

3. ARTICLE VI.1(A) FOOTNOTE (OPERATIONAL LAUNCHERS). SOVIETS PRIVATELY EXPLAINED THAT OPERATIONAL MEANT MILITARILY OPERATIONAL AND DID NOT APPLY TO TEST AND TRAINING LAUNCHERS. THEY SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO MERELY HAVE FOOTNOTE REFER TO LAUNCHERS UNDER CONSTRUCTION AS OF MAY 26, 1972, RATHER THAN TO THOSE BOTH OPERATIONAL AND UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON THAT DATE, WITH AN EXCEPTION FOR TEST AND TRAINING LAUNCHERS.

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